

Message Text

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20

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /157 W

----- 048826

R 060845Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2201

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 13504

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR XF ET SU VT

SUBJECT: AFRO-ARAB INITIATIVE ON JERUSALEM

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

REF: ROME 13183 (NOTAL)

1. A CHECK WITH VATICAN DESK OFFICER FOR MIDDLE EAST DEC. 5
REVEALED THAT HOLY SEE HAS STILL NOT BEEN APPROACHED CONCERNING
EVENTUAL NIMEIRI-HAILE SELASSIE VISIT. SOURCE SAID HE CONFIDENT
THAT POPE WOULD BE WILLING TO RECEIVE SUCH A GROUP SHOULD THEY
ASK; HOWEVER, HE NOTED THAT VATICAN CAREFUL NOT TO GIVE IMPRESSION
THAT IT SOLICITING VISIT. SOURCE POINTED OUT THAT STORIES ON
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VISIT EMANATING FROM MIDDLE EAST INDICATE THAT GROUP WILL ATTEMPT

TO ENLIST VATICAN SUPPORT FOR JERUSALEM'S RETURN TO ARAB CONTROL, A POSITION WITH WHICH THE HOLY SEE COULD NOT ASSOCIATE ITSELF. POPE WOULD, HE ADDED, NO DOUBT IMPRESS UPON NIMEIRI AND HIM THAT HE SAW GREAT DANGERS IN THIS PLAN, AND FOLLOWING EVENTUAL VISIT VATICAN WOULD HAVE TO MAKE PATENTLY CLEAR ITS DISAGREEMENT WITH ANY OVERTLY PRO-ARAB SOLUTION. SOURCE ALSO QUESTIONS WHETHER HAILE SELASSIE OR OTHER CHRISTIAN ARAB LEADER LIKE NYERERE OR KAUNDA COULD GIVE A WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT TO SUCH A PATENTLY PRO-ARAB SOLUTION OF JERUSALEM QUESTION.

2. SOURCE STRESSED THAT HOLY SEE NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT FULL INTERNATIONALIZATION OF JERUSALEM AS RECOMMENDED IN 1947 UN RESOLUTION, SINCE INTERNATIONAL CONTROL UNDER UN AUSPICES WOULD, AMONG OTHER THINGS BE MORE COMPLEX, IMPERSONAL, AND UNLIKELY TO GUARANTEE RELIGIOUS AND ECUMENICAL CHARACTER OF CITY THAN WOULD A SPECIAL STATUTE GIVING PRINCIPAL CONTROL TO REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERESTED PARTIES AND/OR THREE CONCERNED RELIGIOUS GROUPS.

3. COMMENT: SAUDI FORMIN SAQQAF WHO PRESENTLY VISITING ROME, HAS NOT REQUESTED CONTACTS AT VATICAN, A SEEMINGLY PUZZLING OMISSION IF SAUDIS REALLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT EVENTUAL NIMEIRI-HIM VISIT TO POPE. VOLPE

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, INDEPENDENCE, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973ROME13504
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731241/aaaabduf.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: ROME 13183 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18-Sep-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <26-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AFRO-ARAB INITIATIVE ON JERUSALEM DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO
TAGS: PFOR, XF, ET, SU, VT, (SELAASSIE, HAILE), (NIMEIRI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005